



Hove Park School
"Together We Achieve"

Nevill Campus: Nevill Rd, Hove, East Sussex, BN3 7BN
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Email: office@hovepark.org.uk

Mr Jim Roberts- Headteacher

30th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you were all able to find some time to rest and relax over the Christmas break. You will, I am sure be aware that Brighton and Hove remains in Tier 4 of the government's regional approach to restrictions, to limit the spread of coronavirus. The government also announced this afternoon a delayed start to the new term.

The new arrangements will mean;

- **Students in Year Y11 and 6th Form** will now remain at home for the first week of term (week beginning Monday 4th January, 2021) accessing remote learning according to their current timetable.
- **Y11 and 6th Form** will return to school and follow their normal timetable from Monday 11th January, 2021. All the current routines and protocols remain in place including the use of face coverings in communal areas.
- **All other students (Y7-10) will return to school in terms of face to face learning, from Monday 18th January, 2021. At the time of writing it remains unclear as to whether students will be required to access remote learning in the first 2 weeks of term. I will confirm as soon as further information is shared.**

Thank you to those parents and carers that completed the online survey for Critical worker / Vulnerable/ SEND students. We will be contacting you separately with information about in-school provision that will still begin from **Monday 4th January 2021**.

As I highlighted before the break, the government announced plans for mass testing of students and staff from January 2021. I thought it would be useful to provide an over view of our approach.

- It is important to emphasise this rapid testing programme is focused on trying to identify asymptomatic cases (those that do not display symptoms) to limit further transmission.
- Students and staff that display COVID-19 symptoms will need to follow the national guidelines already established including getting tested (PCR test) and where appropriate, self-isolate.

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- The rapid testing programme is voluntary. Both parents / carers and student have to consent for a student to access testing.

All students should return to school (in the timescales described above) irrespective of whether they are involved in the rapid testing programme or not. This is because the school already has in place a set of routines and protocols to mitigate the risks of transmission.

The rapid testing programme focuses on 3 themes;

- Regular testing of staff
- Mass testing of all students as they return to face to face teaching
- Testing of students and staff following being identified as a close proximity contact (7 days of daily testing – not including weekends where individuals would have to self-isolate)

The link below provides further information about the testing process.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/946612/How_to_do_your_test_COVID_19_instruction_leaflet_for_schools.pdf

Over the holidays we have started to plan our response to the proposed rapid testing programme. We have identified suitable areas and a staffing model that will support the testing programme and process.

We will be initially writing to parents and carers of Y11 / 6th Form students and other students accessing in-school provision in the first weeks of term separately. This communication will also include a consent form to return and complete. If our capacity to deliver mass testing for all other year groups changes – I will write and let you know.

Our current thinking is that all other parents and carers will only be contacted for consent if your child has been identified as having been in close proximity to a positive case. Obtaining consent will be part of a process that would allow a student, who previously would have been sent home to self-isolate, to remain in school and be tested each day for a period of 7 days.

I have included further government information and guidance below.



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These continue to be challenging times, in which we are balancing the need to provide high quality learning both remotely and in school, with the added addition of now managing a testing programme on site. Your continued support and understanding is much appreciated as we navigate our way through this next half term to hopefully more positive times.

Best wishes

Jim Roberts

Head teacher

NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for staff and students

You may have heard that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is beginning across the country using new, quicker COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow tests'.

Along with the other protective measures, these tests will help staff and students to remain in school / college safely. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms. By testing we will help to stop the virus spread and keep our school open as safely as possible. The test is voluntary, but we are encouraging everyone to take it.

Schools will start testing staff and students who want to participate from the week beginning 4th January 2021.

While this is a self-swab test, there will be a testing helper who will oversee things and provide help if students need it. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of your nose and throat.

Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with key staff and the individual student participating. Where participants are under 16, parents and carers will also be informed.



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We know these tests work - in validation studies conducted by Oxford University and Public Health England, they were shown to be as accurate in identifying a case as a PCR test (99.68% specificity). The tests have lower sensitivity but they are better at picking up cases when a person has higher viral load, hence the need to test frequently.

Testing will be offered free of charge.

What if a pupil tests positive?

Participating staff and students who test positive will be informed about their results individually. Where participants are under 16, parents and carers will also be notified. Guidance on safe travel and additional precautions will be provided along with test results.

Students will need to take a further 'PCR test' (similar to those done in local and regional testing sites) on the same day (or as soon as possible). The school will be able to provide these PCR test kits to perform at home or you can go to www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or call 119 to book a follow-up test. If ordering a PCR test yourselves, they should choose to visit a drive-through test site if possible, as it is faster than requesting a home test.

During this time while they wait for the PCR result (via text / email) they will need to self-isolate.

If the PCR test returns a positive result you will have to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

What happens if the test is negative?

They will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. A student will only be told if they test positive on a 'lateral flow' test, so if you do not hear you can assume it was negative. A small number of pupils may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

What if a close contact at school/college tests positive?

A close contact of someone in school/college who has tested positive for COVID-19 will be able to return to school if they agree to be tested once a day for 7 days and the test is negative. If they do not want to take the test, they will need to self-isolate as per the national guidelines. This does not apply to household members or close contacts outside of school who will still need to self-isolate.



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Further details will be provided at the time, but if you would prefer to self-isolate instead of doing daily testing, you can.

What if my child develops symptoms?

This testing programme at school is for people with no symptoms. If your child develops symptoms at any time (such as a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate, and book a test by calling 119 (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) or 0300 303 2713 (Scotland) or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

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